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(32 of 364)

United States Patent

6,113,147

Johnson

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Reformatting printed and electronic *text* for smoother reading

Abstract

While leaving the spelling of words intact the sequence of words on ever other line of print *text* is reversed. The reader reads the first line of *text* from left to right. When finished with the first line the reader drops her/his eyes directly below to the 'beginning' of the second line and reads the words on the second line right to left. When finished with the second line the reader again drops her/his eyes directly below to the 'beginning' of the third line and reads this line left to right. The reader continues reading alternately lines of *text* right to left, left to right until reaching a major break in the composition when the process is begun anew.

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434/179

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Field of Search: 283/62,45,46 434/156,178,179,167

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Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of formatting horizontally structured printed and electronic *text*, comprising:

reversing the word sequence on a second line of the *text* and every other line thereafter so the reader when finished reading a first line from left to right drops his/her eyes directly below to begin reading the second line from right to left, continuing in this alternating fashion of reading left to right, right to left until finished reading all lines of the *text*, and

arranging all letters in each word form left to right in all lines of *text*.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of orienting the letters the same way in all lines of *text*.

3. Horizontally structured printed and electronic *text*, comprising a first line of *text* in which the word sequence is left to right followed by a second line of *text* in which the word sequence is right to left and all letters are in each word are arranged from left to right in both lines of *text*.

4. The *text* according to claim 3, wherein the letters are oriented the same way in both lines of *text*.

Description

A. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Horizontally structured *text* is normally read one line at a time from left to right beginning at the top. At the end of each line the reader disconnects the brain and eyes, returns the brain and eyes to the beginning of the next line, and reconnects with the first word on that line. The extra weight on the brain and eyes caused by one disconnect-reconnect interruption per line of reading slows and strains the reader.

One exception to the above is the so-called speed reader. A speed reader is trained to perceive a

broader expanse of words than can the normal reader. Although technically the speed reader is reading more top to bottom than left to right, the brain is generally organizing the input information line by line, left to right, for this is how the *text* is coherently represented. A capable speed reader, therefore, has none or much less of the brain/eyes interruptions described in the first paragraph. However, inasmuch as speed reading techniques are not easily adopted, the large majority of persons have not and probably will not acquire speed reading capability.

A better approach--the one embodied in the present invention--is not to train persons to overcome an inhibiting structure, but to alter the structure itself. With the advent of word processing capability, personal computers, and character-recognition computer technology, restructuring of traditionally structured *text* for smoother reading becomes technically and economically feasible as well as culturally imperative, as explained in the Detailed Description section of this filing.

The present invention contained herein eliminates the brain/eyes disconnect-reconnect interruption experienced by the reader at the end of each line of traditionally structured *text*. It does so by reversing the sequence of words on every other line of *text* thereby permitting a continuous reading flow. This different new reading format is quickly grasped by beginning or capable readers of any age.

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS A REFORMATION OF THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH IN TERMS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

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B. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

These are complex times with rapid turnover of technologies and social conventions. The emerging global culture is one based on and driven by computers, information, and knowledge. More and more opportunities interfacing with these components are opening up and competition among applicants worldwide is heating up. In this dynamic and unchartered environment motivation and discipline for continuous serious reading and study, beginning in early ages, are critical factors for success.

Unfortunately, there are several powerful forces impeding personal and social progress in the direction sketched above, including:

- (1) Discretionary time is being compressed by the growing severity of survival economics which is forcing more persons, many with multiple temporary or part-time jobs and possible school, into the workforce at or around subsistence wages;
- (2) To cope with the economic realities of life the pace of activity for many persons has speeded up to the point of their being constantly hurried and harried, and they carry within them the potential for psychological or physical destruct.
- (3) Tired Eyes Syndrome is becoming more common as larger numbers of students and workers, out of necessity, are spending longer hours gazing into computer screens, plus after-hours time surfing the Net and playing video games; and

(4) The addictive properties of television and computer surfing and games wile away free time and subtly undermine many person's verve for discipline and hard work. Research studies with students, for example, show a strong correlation between higher television consumption and lower school grades.

By making reading smoother, faster, and less tiring the present invention hopes to counter these impediments to human development by strengthening two bedrock elements of a civilized people: widespread literacy with resultant awareness. Early readers and older children would skip through printed and electronic *text* with the lightness of play. Young adults would dance lyrically over assigned and elective reading and want for more. Adults would be magically pulled towards required and recreational reading and find the right balance with printed and electronic media. And, sight-impaired persons would find esteem and happiness in reading large format printed and electronic *text* as their pace and output zoom.

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